

Stockton Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1903.

Stockton-on-Tees:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF EDWARD APPLEBY, 59, HIGH STREET.

1904.



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STOCKTON-ON-TEES,

March 1st, 1904.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of your District.

The year 1903 has been noted as having the greatest rainfall on record and that rainfall was distributed over the whole year and there was extremely little sunshine. The continued dampness would supply a medium for the cultivation of disease germs, and this theory is borne out by the large number of notifications of infectious disease during the year. Although such unfavourable conditions existed during the whole of the year the death rate is not materially greater than it has been for the last few years. The institutions for Public Health are taking every step that science can establish for the prolongation of life, the improvement of the human body and the prevention of Disease, but, in many ways, these efforts are largely discounted by the people themselves.

The national birth rate is steadily decreasing in this country as it has to an enormous extent in some foreign countries, and the preservation of infant life and development is suffering largely from the feeding by artificial foods.

The decrease of births is to be looked upon as a national calamity and the deplorable reasons for it are steadily on the increase that I fear in the not far future we may expect a condition which will have a serious effect on this country.

The natural feeding of infants is steadily decreasing. The objection to feeding infants on the breast was most common in the better class, but of late years this has spread to the working class mothers, and I regret that I see many more of the hateful bottles in the little cots than formerly and I do not see so many of the beautiful clear skinned fat babies. This reluctance to feed the children by unnatural mothers has a serious effect on the infants life but also has a lasting result on the future of the child. A child brought up on artificial food, often not the most suitable, is never so healthy, never so strong, and never so pretty, as the lovely little baby nestling on its mothers bosom. It is a great pity that the natural instincts of the human mothers are being gradually stunted by the desire for freedom and indolence.

The Physical degeneration of Young Men, which is noticed in recruits for the Army, is only a sample of what is taking place in the bulk of the lower class youth, is due I believe to many causes, but principally due to feeding, and if I lay before you how the feeding of the poor has changed in the last few years it will be readily seen what such a change must have upon the human animal. Formerly the child was reared on the breast, fed in early life on milk and bread, rice, whole meal made from the complete grain, either rye, wheat, barley and oats, milk, and a little meat, bacon, fish and vegetables. Now the child is brought about on artificial food, fed on bread and puddings made of white flour, a little rice, none or very little milk, a little fat as butter or margarine and very little meat, tea three times a day with a little sugar. The meal made from the whole grain is a perfect food and will maintain and develop the animal body, but, when the husk and germ is removed to make the flour white you have interfered with the balance of of natures food and withdrawn the nutriments for the maintenance and development of the muscles and bones. In the diet list of the poor this extraction is not returned so consequently you have an incomplete diet for the maintenance and development of the body and consequently the result which you would expect of imperfect development in youth and general failure of the physique of the rising generation.

If the people would as carefully consider what is the best way of feeding for developing the human animal as farmers must do to make a profit out of the feeding of their animals, the general physique of the population would improve quite as much as it has done in the beast and sheep. The question of proper feeding is not so much a question of increased cost as a knowledge of what to feed on and how to properly prepare it.

There were two serious epidemics in Norton, one of Scarlet Fever, and the other of diphtheria. These in all probability would not have reached anything like the proportions they did had I been able to isolate the earlier cases. Owing to alterations at the Sanatorium for increasing the accommodation I could not get the earlier cases of the epidemic into the hospital. The increase of accommodation at the hospital I hope will avoid such a scarcity of beds in the future, and we will be better supplied than we could be if we had a hospital of our own.

The population of the district has steadily increased by 490, principally in Norton, Billingham, Eaglescliffe, and Preston. This increase is largely caused by persons employed in the neighbouring towns going into the country to live. The trams and railway accommodation have given such cheap and quick facilities for travelling that many people prefer living in the country and enjoy it while the cheaper rates have also been a great inducement. The new houses that have been built are good and substantial and roomy, but there is a tendency in some districts to get them small. This is not to be commended for the cheap price of land and the low rates compared with the rents paid in towns leave a good margin of profit. The whole of the new houses have plans submitted which must conform to the building bye-laws, and they are regularly inspected during erection.

The Sewers have acted well over the whole area except for some trifling repairs to some of them which was satisfactorily done. The district is well sewered except in that part of Norton between Billingham and Norton, and the existing arrangement is satisfactory, but, should further development occur, a more extensive

and expensive scheme will have to be faced. Around the Salt Works at Haverton Hill there has been extensive subsidence, in some parts as much as 4 feet. The sewers have had to be relaid in order to get level and I fear that if the subsidence continues the existing sewers will not have level to do this. If such is the case the houses would either have to be closed or some new outlet for the sewer found. A outfall sewer, half way between Haverton Hill and Port Clarence, was laid in the silt on the fore shore. The pipes had got tilted and the silt got into them. This sewer has been reconstructed with iron pipes laid upon a concrete foundation which I hope may be found to be satisfactory.

In many of the populous places such as Norton, Eaglescliffe, Preston, and Hartburn, water carriage for excreta is on the increase and the sewers have always dealt efficiently with it.

In the different villages ash closets are almost entirely used for the night soil and these are scavenged by contractors every 14 days. The work has been done satisfactorily. In several of the villages the pay for scavenging has had to be increased owing to the increase of the population and also at Eaglescliffe (on account of water closets being used) the night soil was much less value as manure. There are still a few old ash pits in the district which I am trying as opportunities arise to get converted into ash closets.

The large villages are supplied with water from the Tees Valley Water Board. The water has been satisfactory but at Wolviston the supply at times has been deficient.

The pumps supplying the rest of the small villages have acted well and owing to the wet season the supply has always been plenty. At Wolviston the water from the pump in the main street was found, on analysis, to be bad. Your board therefore ordered its closure which was done under Magistrates Order.

The only lodging house in the district at Wolviston is closed.

The slaughter houses in the district have been regularly inspected and are kept clean and wholesome.

The dairies and cowsheds are regularly visited and found clean and satisfactory.

There are only two bakehouses in the District and they only employ one hand each. They are clean, airy, and healthy and the workshops are also satisfactory.

There is a horse slaughterer at the Two Mile Houses. This place is far removed from any dwelling and it has been free from causing a nuisance.

Nuisances have regularly been brought before you by the Inspector and these have all been abated without any legal proceedings.

Every case of infectious disease has been visited and where possible and advisable removed to the Sanatorium. After removal or recovery the premises have all been disinfected. The same arrangements as before exists between your Authority and the Stockton Corporation for reception of infectious diseases into their Sanatorium. The patients all express themselves well satisfied with the treatment and kindness which they receive there, and I think that this satisfactory arrangement should continue.

Your Authority have taken steps to have the new streets that are finished in Norton, Eaglescliffe, and Billingham properly made which will be a great sanitary improvement.

The District Council and various Parish Councils have worked together in harmony and many suggestions that have been forwarded by the Parish Councils have been favourably considered and carried out to the benefit of your district.

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 132.

The County Council's privilege of having specimens examined bacteriologically has been a great boon and been very often used by the Medical Men and the gratuitous supply of Diphtheratic Scrum to doctors been used in nearly all the cases during the epidemic.

The estimated population of the District is 16,646 in 1903, in 1902, 16,156. The Census population was 14,841.

The number of births registered was 483 in 1903 a birth rate of 29·0 per thousand. In 1902 there were 487 births. The county birth rate for 1903 is 35·8.

The total number of deaths registered from the district was 218 with a death rate of 13. In 1902 the death rate was 12·6. The total number with those added which have died in institutions outside the District, but formerly resided in the district, is 232, and a death rate of 13·9. The death rate for the County of Durham in 1903 was 17·7. Out of 218 deaths 61 were infants under 1 year of age.

There have been several severe outbreaks in local areas during the year. In Norton and neighbourhood there was a severe epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the first six months of the year and Scarlet Fever was present with us the whole year in different parts of the District. This was easily accounted for from the fact that the disease was very prevalent in the neighbouring towns and the intercommunication is very great with them

A fatal epidemic of Whooping Cough and Measles affected the children of Carlton Ironworks and neighbourhood in the middle of the year, and at the end of the year Norton was subjected to a serious epidemic of Diphtheria. Diphtheria was prevalent over large areas in the County of Durham at the same time.

SMALL POX.—We have had three cases of Small Pox in the District during the year, and although not notified to me I traced them as having slept at the huts at Long Newton either the night before or two nights before they were discovered. They were all tramps, that class which go from job to job only working a few days at each job. This class of person has been the principal means of disseminating Small Pox about the country.

MEASLES.—Have appeared in many districts during the year, but in no place did they become serious but at Carlton Ironworks where one death was registered.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were cases cropped up all over the district during the year, 88 being notified and 8 died. In Norton it became epidemic, 61 cases being notified. With the extra hospital accommodation I hope that we shall be able to get the first cases removed and so avoid it spreading in future.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—An epidemic of this disease occurred at Carlton Ironworks causing 6 deaths. It also appeared at the end of the year in the Eastern part of your district, and although not very extensive yet I anticipate it may become so, as it is many years since we had an extensive epidemic, so there is a large amount of virgin ground for the disease to attack.

DIPHTHERIA.—Like many other districts in the North of England we have had a lot of Diphtheria. 29 cases were registered causing 4 deaths, it only became epidemic in Norton where it was extremely difficult to trace the infection but everything pointed, so I thought, to aggregation in schools. From some observations taken by cultivation of swabs from the throats of patients we found the germs active up to six weeks, from the onset of the disease we did not keep the cases isolated long enough consequently I ordered no child to be admitted to the schools for a month after its convalescence. Your Authority have ordered me to keep a supply of antitoxin for the use of Medical Men so I have always a supply of Parks Davis & Co.'s antitoxin. It has a wonderful effect if the cases are caught early, when it is used the membrane nearly always disappears permanently in two days. In no case have I found any ill effects from injections and I have had only one case of paralysis following its use.

ENTERIC FEVER.—11 cases were notified and 3 deaths registered from this disease. There was never any spreading from the original sporadic cases and every source of causation was looked for in each case.

INFLUENZA.—This disease was never very prevalent during the year but 4 deaths were registered as having been caused by it.

DIARRHŒA.—Only caused 1 death in an infant but ENTERITIS

caused 7; six of these being in infants. We never had the amount of Enteritis that is usual in the Autumn.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Only one case was notified.

PHTHISIS and other TUBERCULAR DISEASES caused death in 22 cases. In my enquiries I can generally trace the source of infection. It is very nearly impossible to keep infection down in these cases owing to the small houses in which many live but still I think the danger of spreading the disease would not be so much if the patients would be more careful in disinfecting all the sputum.

NORTON.

Census population 4,532. Estimated population 5,482. Number of births 152, birth rate 27·7. Number of deaths 69, death rate 12·5.

The village has been attacked by the two epidemics previously described. 93 cases of infectious diseases were notified. The village still continues to increase, 50 new houses having been certified. The houses are better class and the increase of population is principally in persons employed in Stockton or those retiring from active life. The number of old retired people living in the village will have an effect on the birth rate.

The sewers have acted well except the main sewer down the village which was partially blocked up by the roots of trees having grown in the pipes. The scheme for draining Billingham Road is still under consideration, although it will have to be done there is no immediate hurry for it as the present system is working satisfactory.

The scavenging has been done satisfactorily but the salary of the Contractor has had to be increased in proportion to the increase of the population.

The lighting has been extended where necessary.

BILLINGHAM.

Census population 3,656. Estimated population 4,116. Births 149, birth rate 36·2. Deaths 63, death rate 15·8.

The village of Billingham has and is increasing by a number of houses being built on the station road. They are cottage houses and will be useful for the workers in the various works on the Northern bank of the Tees.

The sewers of this village have acted well and the lighting and water supply has been satisfactory.

HAVERTON HILL.

There has not been much building in the old village but a good many houses have been built adjoining the road to Port Clarence. The sewers have acted well except in the area of the subsidence previously described, and the sewer through the fore-shore half way between Haverton Hill and Port Clarence.

The scavenging has been well done and the lighting with oil lamps fairly satisfactory. The water supply from the Tees Valley Water Board has been of good quality and plentiful.

COWPEN BEWLEY.

Census population 1,121. Estimated population 1,121. Births 33, birth rate 29·4. Deaths 12, death rate 12·7.

The sewers in the old village of Cowpen Bewley and also at the Cottages at Port Clarence have acted well. The water supply at Cowpen Village this year has been plenty. There is no increase of dwelling houses in the township, but an enormous increase in works by Messrs. Bell Bros. at Port Clarence. The death rate is very low and there has been very little zymotic disease.

WOLVISTON.

Census population 607. Estimated population 637. Births 13, birth rate 20·4. Deaths 14, death rate 21·9.

There were ten cases of Scarlet Fever notified and one death from it. The death rate is very high and of the 14 deaths 2 were from Tubercular Disease, 3 from Cancer, and 3 from Pneumonia. The sewers have acted well and the scavenging been satisfactory. The Tees Valley Water Board have pipes laid into the village but not many houses are supplied by it. The well in the main street had to be closed the water being certified by the Analyst as unfit for use. The outfall sewer was never seriously contaminated from

the beck always having sufficient water in to dilute the sewage.

WHITTON.

Census population 1,099. Estimated population 1,099.
Births 46, birth rate 41·8. Deaths 26, death rate 23·6.

As before mentioned Carlton Ironworks had suffered from an epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough, the former causing one death and the latter 6.

The sewers have acted well and the scavenging has been done well.

EGGLESCLIFFE.

Census population 1,240. Estimated population 1,335.
Births 31, birth rate 23·2. Deaths 15, death rate 11·2.

The township has suffered very little from infections and no death has occurred from them. Two of the deaths registered were in persons not belonging to the district. The sewers have acted well and the Tees Valley Water been good and plentiful. Some complaints were made about the scavenging but I hope that the new scavenger will do better. The new streets that are completed are to be properly constructed which will make the village clean and tidy.

AGRICULTURAL.

Census population 2,586. Estimated population 2,856.
Births 59, birth rate 20·6. Deaths 33, death rate 11·9.

The village that has grown most in the area is Preston where 13 houses have been certified, and at Hartburn and Longnewton each 2. The sewers in the different villages have acted well and the water supply from pumps and in those villages where the Tees Valley Water passes through has been good. 13 cases of Scarlet Fever and 5 cases of Diphtheria were notified, 8 of the deaths were from Tubercular Disease. On the whole the area has been healthy and the death rate is very low.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. BLANDFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY of DURHAM.

Chief Vital Statistics for 1903,

and their comparison with 1902, and the average of the
ten years 1893-1902.

Estimated population (1903)				...	790,770*	
,, ,, (1902)				...	849,620	
				Annual rates per 1,000 population.		Mean rates for 10 years.
				1903.	1902.	1893-1902.
Birth-rate ...	...	...	...	35·8	35·6	35·4
Death-rate...	...	...	...	17·7	16·6	18·2
Zymotic death-rate ...	...	...	...	2·01	1·68	2·32
Infant Mortality-rate (per 1,000 births) ...				161	139	165
Small-pox...	...	...	...	0·03	0·001	0·007
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0·25	0·19	0·19
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	0·29	0·26	0·18
“Fever” (Enteric and continued)	...	...	...	0·12	0·14	0·29
Measles ...	...	...	...	0·32	0·37	0·44
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	0·24	0·38	0·36
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	0·73	0·31	0·85
Enteritis, &c.	...	...	...	0·38	0·26	0·67
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	1·09	1·06	1·22
Other tubercular diseases	...	...	...	0·93	0·85	0·91
Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	3·02	2·97	3·17

T. EUSTACE HILL,

12th January, 1904.

County Medical Officer of Health.

* The reduction in population is owing to the exclusion of West Hartlepool, now a County Borough, and the inclusion of a portion of the South Shields Rural District in the County Borough of South Shields.

TABLE I.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT (for whole District.)

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.					Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District. 10	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District 11	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District	
		Number. 3	Rate* 4	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.						Number 12	* Rate 13
				Number 5	Rate per 1000 Births registered 6	Number. 7	Rate* 8						
1	2							9					
1893	12,165	382	31.4	38	99.4	192	15.5	...	...	1	193	15.8
1894	12,440	387	31.4	38	98.1	154	12.3	...	...	12	166	13.3
1895	12,670	345	27.2	61	176.8	210	16.5	...	...	2	212	16.7
1896	13,200	356	26.9	43	120.7	160	12.1	...	...	8	168	12.7
1897	13,680	385	28.1	47	122.0	169	12.3	...	...	8	177	12.9
1898	14,245	383	26.8	48	125.3	178	12.4	...	...	5	183	12.8
1899	14,720	388	26.3	46	118.5	205	13.9	...	...	8	213	14.4
1900	15,445	439	28.4	69	157.1	238	15.4	...	...	10	248	16.0
1901	15,521	455	29.3	53	116.4	207	13.3	...	...	7	214	13.7
1902	16,156	487	30.1	54	110.8	204	12.6	...	...	17	221	13.6
Averages for years 1893-1902		400	28.5	49	124.5	191	13.6	...	...	7.8	198	14.1
1903		483	29.0	61	126.2	218	13.0	...	...	14	232	13.9

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 32,495.

Total population at all ages, 14,841 ; Number of inhabited houses, 2,919 ; Average number of persons per house, 5 ; (at Census of 1901.)

TABLE II.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Names of Localities		NORTON				BILLINGHAM				COWPEN				WOLVISTON				WHITTON				EGGLESCLIFFE				AGRICULTURAL			
Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	
1893 ...	3850	114	55	10	2700	80	59	17	1051	50	24	3	585	19	10	...	1081	41	11	5	860	21	6	1	2038	57	27	2	
1894 ...	3950	107	47	12	2770	98	29	9	1066	57	23	5	590	16	10	3	1091	39	15	2	920	24	8	2	2053	46	22	5	
1895 ...	4025	98	62	15	2810	87	54	25	1066	40	23	6	590	16	13	1	1091	34	21	8	990	26	15	2	2098	44	22	4	
1896 ...	4200	101	50	11	3000	103	46	20	1066	39	21	5	610	16	6	...	1091	28	12	3	1080	23	6	...	2153	46	19	4	
1897 ...	4320	94	51	12	3190	116	37	19	1066	43	30	6	615	24	5	1	1091	30	11	3	1145	24	12	1	2253	54	23	5	
1898 ...	4415	111	54	15	3365	95	40	12	1066	31	11	2	615	15	10	3	1091	33	18	8	1225	37	17	2	2468	61	23	6	
1899 ...	4575	104	62	16	3510	115	45	12	1066	32	30	6	615	21	17	3	1161	36	19	3	1250	31	14	5	2543	49	28	1	
1900 ...	4915	126	61	15	3650	131	81	35	1066	32	25	3	620	18	12	4	1246	43	22	5	1305	31	10	1	2633	58	29	6	
1901 ...	4932	121	59	13	3786	134	46	11	1121	38	28	8	612	15	15	...	1099	51	18	9	1280	38	9	1	2691	58	32	11	
1902 ...	5232	141	66	12	3991	137	47	18	1121	42	34	7	637	12	13	4	1099	46	16	5	1305	37	17	2	2771	72	28	6	
Averages of years 1893 to 1902	4441	111.7	56.7	13.1	3277	109.6	48.4	17.8	1075	40.4	24.9	5.1	608	17.2	11.1	1.9	1114	38.1	16.3	5.1	1136	29.2	11.4	1.7	2370	54.5	25.3	5	
1903 ...	5482	152	69	13	4116	149	63	26	1121	33	12	4	637	13	14	3	1099	46	26	10	1335	31	15	3	2856	59	33	2	

TABLE III.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year, 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases Notified in Whole District							Total Cases notified in each Locality							Number of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.						
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						1 Norton	2 Billingham	3 Cowpen	4 Wolviston	5 Whitton	6 Egglescliffe	7 Agricultural	1 Norton	2 Billingham	3 Cowpen	4 Wolviston	5 Whitton	6 Egglescliffe	7 Agricultural
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards														
DIPHThERIA	29	...	7	20	1	1	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ERYSIPELAS	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SCARLET FEVER	88	...	28	47	6	7	...	61	2	...	10	...	2	13	8	2	...	...	...	1	9
ENTERIC FEVER	11	...	1	...	5	5	...	6	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
PUERPERAL FEVER	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	132	...	36	67	12	17	...	93	3	...	10	1	3	22	10	2	...	...	...	1	9

State the name of the isolation hospital, if any, used by the sick of the District—Stockton Sanatorium, Stockton.

TABLE IV.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages							Deaths in or belonging to Localities (at all ages)						Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upwards	Norton	Billinghim	Cowpen	Wolviston	Whitton	Egglescliffe		Agricultural
Measles	1	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	8	...	6	1	...	1	..	7	...	..	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	6	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup ...	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
Epidemic Influenza	4	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...
Enteritis	7	6	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	...	...	1	...	...	...
Phthisis	14	...	...	3	3	7	1	6	2	...	1	...	1	4	...
Other Tubercular diseases	8	1	3	1	1	2	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	4	...
Cancer, Malignant disease	15	...	...	...	...	8	7	8	...	1	3	..	1	2	...
Bronchitis	14	6	2	1	...	5	...	1	10	...	...	1	...	2	...
Pneumonia	25	6	3	1	2	9	4	5	8	1	3	4	1	3	...
Pleurisy	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver ...	2	...	..	..	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Premature Birth	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	...	...	2	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Heart Diseases	21	...	...	...	1	9	11	3	5	2	2	1	4	4	...
Accidents	11	...	4	...	3	4	...	4	...	1	...	1	2	3	...
Suicides	4	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...
All other causes...	73	28	4	1	2	11	27	25	25	4	3	8	2	6	...
All causes	232	61	27	11	16	65	52	69	63	12	14	26	15	33	

